

I CLAIM:

1. A container for receiving an explosive element and containing an explosion therein, the container comprising:

a foldable bag having a first open end and at least one wall defining a first enclosure, each of the at least one wall being composed of a flexible material of a constant thickness capable of containing fragments projected by the explosion;

an outer casing having a plurality of first and second panels defining a second enclosure for snugly receiving the foldable bag, the first and second panels being rigid, the first panels being hingedly connected to the second panels such that the first panels are movable between a first deployed configuration, where the first panels define a second open end corresponding to the first open end, to a second folded configuration, where the first panels at least partially close the second open end, thereby reducing a height of the outer casing; and

a first attachment system on the outer casing for maintaining the first panels in the first deployed configuration when the container is receiving the explosive element;

whereby a necessary storage space for the container is reduced by folding the foldable bag and moving the first panels of the outer casing in the second folded configuration.

2. The container according to claim 1, wherein the foldable bag has at least two walls, and the flexible material covers edges between adjacent walls at least partially continuously with the adjacent walls.

3. The container according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inner casing snugly surrounded by the foldable bag, the inner casing having a plurality of third and

fourth panels defining a third enclosure, the third and fourth panels being composed of a blast mitigation material adapted to significantly reduce a strength of a blast produced by the explosion before the blast reaches the foldable bag, the third panels being hingedly connected to the fourth panels such that the third panels are movable between a third deployed configuration, where the third panels define a third open end corresponding to the first open end, to a fourth folded configuration, where the third panels at least partially close the third open end, thereby reducing a height of the inner casing; and

a second attachment system on the inner casing for maintaining the third panels in the third deployed configuration when the container is receiving the explosive element;

whereby the first panels of the outer casing can be moved in the second folded configuration at least when the third panels of the inner casing are in the fourth folded configuration.

4. The container according to claim 1, wherein the flexible material is an extended chain polyethylene fabric.

5. The container according to claim 1, wherein the flexible material is composed of a plurality of layers.

6. The container according to claim 5, wherein the foldable bag has a plurality of walls, at least a portion of the plurality of layers being formed by a continuous fabric extending in at least a portion of the plurality of walls.

7. The container according to claim 5, wherein for each of the at least one wall, the plurality of layers are disposed such as to have part of the layers extending perpendicularly to the remaining layers.

8. The container according to claim 1, wherein the first and second panels of the outer casing are composed of a rigid foam core sandwiched between two sheets of polyethylene.

9. The container according to claim 1, wherein the container can be inserted into an average size car trunk when the first panels of the outer casing are in the second folded configuration.

10. The container according to claim 1, wherein the outer casing and foldable bag have a prismatic shape.

11. The container according to claim 3, wherein the outer casing, foldable bag and inner casing have a prismatic shape.

12. A method for containing an explosive element located on a surface using a container having an outer casing surrounding a foldable impact-resistant bag, the method comprising the steps of:

- unfolding a folded portion of the outer casing such as to obtain a deployed configuration defining a first open end in the outer casing;

- engaging an attachment system such as to retain the outer casing in the deployed configuration;

- unfolding the foldable bag such as to define a second open end in the foldable bag corresponding with the first open end in the outer casing; and

- lowering the container on the explosive element such that the explosive element is enclosed in the container with the first and second open end being effectively closed by the surface.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the container further comprises an inner casing surrounded by the foldable bag, wherein after unfolding the foldable bag, the method further comprises the steps of:

unfolding a folded portion of the inner casing such as to obtain a second deployed configuration defining a third open end in the inner casing corresponding with the second open end of the bag;

engaging a second attachment system such as to retain the inner casing in the second deployed configuration;

and wherein the explosive element is enclosed in the container with the third open end also being effectively closed by the surface.

14. A container for receiving an explosive element and containing fragments projected by an explosion thereof, the container comprising a plurality of walls defining an enclosure with one open end, the plurality of walls being composed of a material of a constant thickness capable of containing fragments projected by the explosion, the material in each of the plurality of walls being formed of a plurality of layers such that each layer is continuous with at least one layer in an adjacent one of the plurality of walls to provide an at least partial continuity of the layers between adjacent walls.

15. The container according to claim 14, wherein the container has a prismatic shape formed by a top wall and first and second pairs of opposed side walls.

16. The container according to claim 15, wherein the material is in the form of first, second and third elongated strips, the first elongated strip being disposed such as to continuously form part of the plurality of layers of the top wall and of the first pair of opposed side walls, the second elongated strip being disposed such as to continuously form part of the plurality of layers of the second pair of opposed side walls and the remaining part of the plurality of layers of the top wall, and the third elongated strip being disposed such as to continuously form the remaining

part of the plurality of layers of the first and second pair of opposed side walls.

17. The container according to claim 16, wherein the first, second and third strips are disposed with respect to each other such as to create a weaving effect between the plurality of layers forming each wall.

18. The container according to claim 14, wherein the material is flexible such that the container is foldable.

19. The container according to claim 14, wherein the material is an extended chain polyethylene fabric.

20. The container according to claim 14, wherein for each of the plurality of walls, the plurality of layers are disposed such as to have part of the layers extending perpendicularly to the remaining layers.

21. A method for manufacturing a container for receiving an explosive element and containing fragments projected by an explosion thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a prismatic support having a top wall, a first side wall, a second side wall adjacent to the first side wall, a third side wall opposed to the first side wall, and a fourth side wall opposed to the second side wall;

providing first, second and third strips of a material capable of containing fragments projected by the explosion, the first strip having a width generally equal to a width of the first side wall, the second strip having a width generally equal to a width of the second side wall, and the third strip having a width generally equal to a height of the container;

wrapping the first strip such as to subsequently cover the first side wall, top wall and third side wall;

wrapping the second strip such as to subsequently cover the second side wall, top wall and fourth side wall;

wrapping the third strip around the support such as to subsequently cover the first, second, third and fourth side walls;

wrapping the first strip back such as to subsequently cover the third side wall, top wall and first side wall;

wrapping the second strip back such as to subsequently cover the fourth side wall, top wall and second side wall;

wrapping the third strip again around the support such as to subsequently cover the first, second, third and fourth side walls; and

repeating the wrapping steps until a desired thickness of material is obtained over each wall such as to define the container.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein after a desired thickness of material is obtained, the container is laminated such as to become rigid.